

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 02748 151309Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00  
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 EB-08 COME-00 OES-06 FEA-01  
INT-05 TRSE-00 NEAE-00 /070 W  
-----151319Z 047541 /50

O 151220Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1745  
INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

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TEL AVIV FOR ABINGTON

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS/ ENRG, PFOR, EG, US, IS  
SUBJECT: NEW ISRAELI HARASSMENT OF AMOCO DRILLING IN GULF OF SUEZ

REF: CAIRO 2712

1. ROSS CRAIG, AMOCO EGYPT MANAGER, HAS INFORMED US OF  
FOLLOWING FURTHER INCIDENTS IN SOUTHERN GULF OF SUEZ BLOCK  
391. AT ABOUT 10:00 P.M. FEBRUARY 14 ISRAELI PATROL BOAT,  
WHICH HAD EARLIER ORDERED WORK BOAT TO LEAVE AREA NEAR  
AMOCO DRILLING RIG 511, RETURNED. AMOCO OFFICIALS SET OUT  
IN LIGHT BOAT FROM RIG 511 AND CONVERSED WITH ISRAELI PATROL  
BOAT CAPTAIN. AGREEMENT REACHED BETWEEN THEM IN WHICH AMOCO  
WOULD SHORTEN ANCHOR CABLES IN AREA WHICH ISRAELIS CLAIMED ON  
EASTERN SIDE OF GULF FROM 4200 TO 3000 FEET. ACCORDING  
AMOCO'S UNDERSTANDING OF CONVERSATION WITH PATROL BOAT, THIS  
WOULD ALLOW ANCHOR(S) TO BE PLACED WITHOUT FURTHER HARASSMENT.  
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PAGE 02 CAIRO 02748 151309Z

WORK BOAT CONTINUED OPERATIONS THROUGH THE NIGHT AND HAD  
COMPLETED ITS WORK BY DAWN FEBRUARY 15.

2. AT ABOUT 0900 FEBRUARY 15, ISRAELI PATROL BOAT RETURNED  
AND GAVE WORK BOAT CAPTAIN ULTIMATUM THAT HE MUST PICK UP  
ANCHOR(S) AND LEAVE THE AREA TO THE WEST WITHIN 24 HOURS.  
THERE WAS NO THREAT OF SPECIFIC CONSEQUENT ACTION, ACCORDING TO

AMOCO.

3. CRAIG POINTED OUT THAT IF ANCHOR(S) IN QUESTION HAVE TO BE MOVED THEN RIG ITSELF WILL HAVE TO BE MOVED. THIS IS STEP WHICH WILL BE EXTREMELY COSTLY FOR AMOCO BECAUSE NEW SITE WILL HAVE TO BE IDENTIFIED BY GEOLOGISTS AND RIG WOULD HAVE TO REMAIN IDLE DURING THAT PROCESS. ACCORDING CRAIG HE DOES NOT INTEND COMPLY WITH DEMAND TO REMOVE ANCHORS. HE ASKED FOR USG ASSISTANCE IN CLEARING UP MATTER QUICKLY.

4. ALMOST IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING CRAIG'S CALL, AHMED HILLAL, MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CALLED AMBASSADOR TO INFORM HIM OF INCIDENT WHICH IS TAKING PLACE IN BLOCK 391 AND TO REQUEST USG ASSISTANCE IN MAKING SURE RIG REMAINS ON CURRENT LOCATION. HILLAL SAID HE HAD BEEN IN CONTACT WITH FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMY WHO HAD ASKED HIM TO CALL AMBASSADOR TO REQUEST THAT THIS MATTER BE BROUGHT TO IMMEDIATE ATTENTION OF SECRETARY VANCE. FAHMY HAS ALSO TALKED WITH AMBASSADOR ABOUT THIS LATEST INCIDENT AND ASKED FOR SECRETARY'S INTERVENTION.

5. COMMENT: WE DO NOT KNOW AT THIS MOMENT WHETHER, IF AMOCO FAILS TO REMOVE THE OFFENDING ANCHOR(S), ISRAELI GUNBOAT WILL CUT THEM. WE ASSUME THIS IS A DISTINCT POSSIBILITY WHEN DEADLINE EXPIRES. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN, TOO, WHETHER DEPT'S PRESS SPOKESMAN'S COMMENTS ON ISRAELI DRILLING ACTIVITIES IN THE GULF OF SUEZ WILL MAKE GOI MORE OR LESS ADAMANT. COMING ON HEELS OF THAT STATEMENT, THE PRESENT INCIDENT MAY TURN OUT TO BE A TEST CASE. EGYPTIANS WERE HEARTENED BY DEPT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 CAIRO 02748 151309Z

PRESS SPOKESMAN'S COMMENTS AND HAVE ASKED SECRETARY TO INTERVENE.

6. AMOCO IS CONCERNED ABOUT PHYSICAL SAFETY OF RIG 511, WHICH IS VALUED AT APPROXIMATELY \$55 MILLION. WILL BE RECALLED THAT IN PREVIOUS MARINER INCIDENT, ISRAELI PATROL BOATS THREATENED PHYSICALLY CUT ANCHOR LINES, WHICH, IF DONE, WOULD HAVE CAUSED CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE TO RIG ITSELF. TO BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE NO SUCH THREAT HAS BEEN MADE IN THIS INSTANCE, BUT AMOCO UNDERSTANDABLY HAS SOME MISGIVINGS ABOUT SAFETY OF ITS RIG.

7. WE HAVE NO INDICATION THAT EITHER GOE OR AMOCO PURPOSELY TIMED POSITIONING OF RIG AT NEW SITE TO COINCIDE WITH SECRETARY'S TRIP IN ORDER TO FORCE THE US TO FOCUS ON THE ISSUE. IN FACT, AS REPORTED IN 76 CAIRO 16361 AND PREVIOUS, CRAIG INFORMED EMBOFF ON NOVEMBER 26 OF AMOCO'S PLANS FOR THIS AREA. IN PLAN FOR PRESENT OPERATION, AMOCO PROJECTION THROUGHOUT HAS

BEEN THAT THE ACTUAL DRILLING OPERATION INCLUDING ANCHORS  
WOULD NOT IN ANY WAY BE EAST OF THE MEDIAN LINE. AMOCO  
NOW STATES THAT ACCORDING ISRAELI POSITIONING OF MEDIAN  
LINE, AT LEAST ONE AND POSSIBLY MORE ANCHORS ARE  
APPARENTLY EAST OF THE MEDIAN LINE.  
EILTS

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED TO SECRETARY'S PARTY.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**TAGS:** ENRG, PFOR, EG, US, IS, AMOCO, (CRAIG, ROSS)  
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**Type:** TE  
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